

ABSTRACT**MACHINE FOR THE PREPARATION OF BEVERAGES**

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A low pressure beverage preparation system for automatically preparing a range of beverage types from a range of beverage cartridges, the system comprising:

a beverage preparation machine;

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and a plurality of beverage cartridges, each beverage cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients associated with a specific beverage type, wherein the beverage preparation system comprises:

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a. means for receiving one of said plurality of beverage cartridges in said beverage preparation machine and means for supplying, in use, to said beverage cartridge an aqueous medium at a pressure of less than 2 bar to produce a beverage from the one or more beverage ingredients contained

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therein;

b. a reader in said beverage preparation machine for automatically interpreting a code written on said beverage cartridge;

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c. processing means for creating a specific brewing cycle based on said code;

d. means for automatically adjusting a temperature of said aqueous medium based on said code prior to supply of said aqueous medium to the beverage cartridge;

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e. means in at least some of said plurality of beverage cartridges for optionally, dependant on

beverage type, producing foaming of the beverage;
and

f. a user interface for initiating an operating
cycle;

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wherein the beverage preparation system can
produce a range of beverage types including at
least, but not limited to, filtered coffee,
cappuccino, tea, chocolate and frothed milk, and
wherein operation of the user interface is

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independent of the beverage type being dispensed.